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ABSTRACT

Pablita Velarde, renowned artist and lecturer, recalls some of the Tewa legends handed down orally through the generations. She heard her grandfather and great-grandfather relate these tales on cold winter evenings at Santa Clara Pueblo when she was a child. The six stories told by Old Father Story Teller are "The Stars," which ties the constellations to the story of how the Tewa people came to this land; "Sad Eyes," about a boy raised by deer whose mother allowed him to return to them; "Enchanted Hunter," illustrating how one must learn to awaken to one's senses and be alert; "Turkey Girl," about an outcast foster girl whose turkey flock helped her escape to a better land; "Butterfly Boy," in which a dreamer teaches his people to appreciate beauty; and "First Twins," which tells of the origins of the Koshares, who are the summoners of the supernatural ones, the ancestors. In Indian legends, small details are very likely to carry much meaning, and all these stories are meant to teach as well as to entertain. Each tale is illustrated by Velarde. Includes a brief biography of Velarde and photographs of Santa Clara Pueblo. (TD)

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